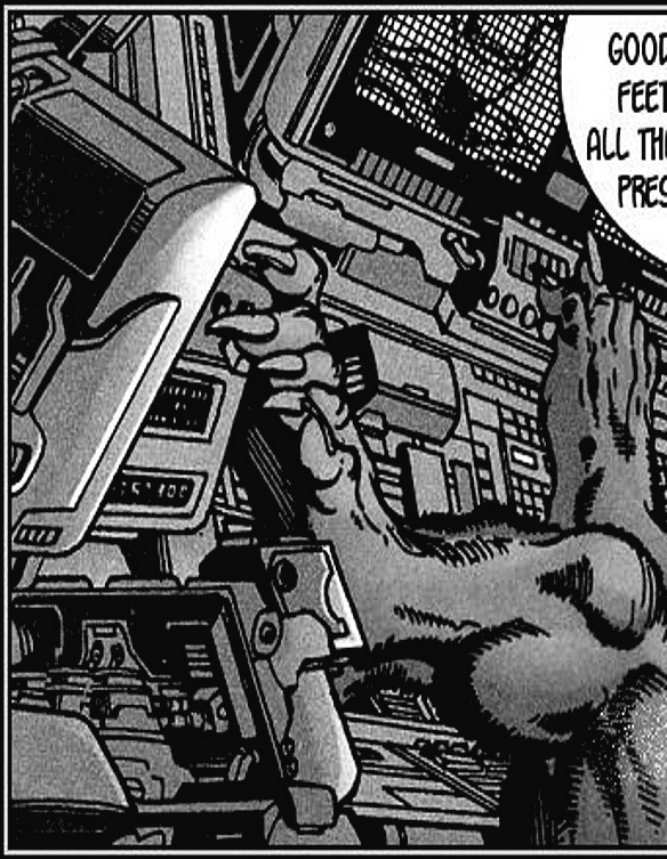


VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM



GOOD
FEET
ALL THE
PRES

THING I CAN USE MY
AS WELL TO SCAN!
E FASTER TO PROUDLY
ENT TO THE WORLD
AT LARGE:

EXCALIBUR

#11

(AN UMPTENTH BEAST
CHARMING SCAN)



FOR QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS,
MAIL TO BEASTCHARMING@YAHOO.COM

MARVEL

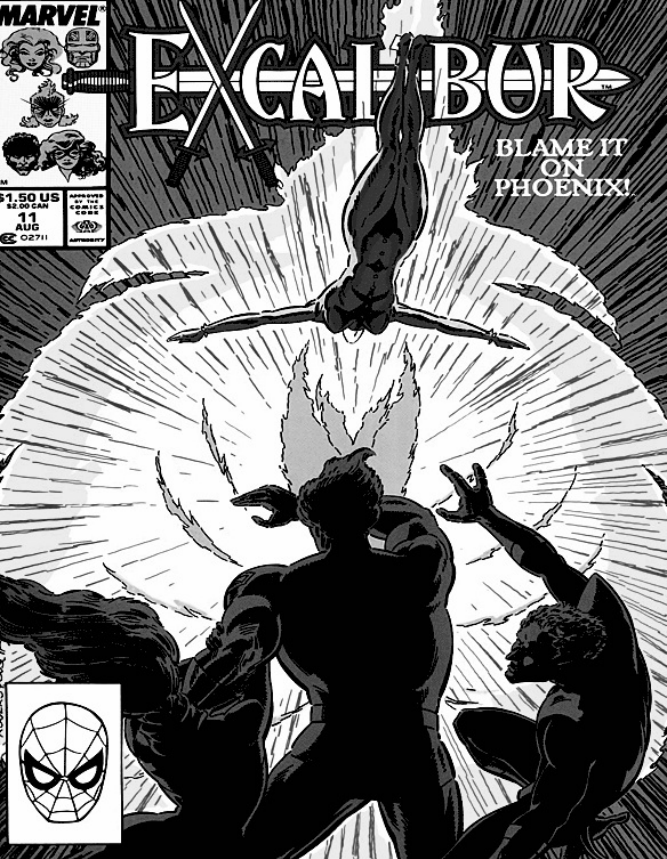


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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR

BLAME IT
ON
PHOENIX!



IT'S A SIGHT TO
STIR THE BLOOD...

...THIS BRIGHT, FINE
MONDAY MORNING...

-- AS PHOENIX AND
SHADOWCAT OF
EXCALIBUR

...STREAK UP THE
THAMES RIVER, ACROSS
THE HEART OF LONDON,
ON THEIR WAY HOME.

STAN LEE
presents

AMONG THE
WATCHERS--

THE PRICE

-- STIRRED TO THE
SOUL OF HIS EXTREMELY
SHALLOW BEING --

-- MERCHANT BANKER
NIGEL FROBISHER --

IF THE WORD HAD
ANY MEANING FOR
HIM...

...ONE MIGHT
ALMOST SAY,
HE'S IN LOVE.

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CLAREMONT
WRITER

MARSHALL
ROGERS
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TERRY
AUSTIN
GUEST INKER

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BONG



BUT THEN, ROMANCE...

"BIG BEN!"

--CHIMING THE HOUR!



IT'S NINE O'CLOCK!

OUT OF MY WAY!

I BEG YOUR PARDON!



BONG



SHE SAID--
MOVE, YOU COWS--

--I WAS TO BE--

--HOLD THE LIFT--

--IN HER OFFICE--



BONG



--OPEN, CURSE YOU, PLEASE, OPEN--

--AT THE STROKE OF NINE--
--BLAST!



PERHAPS ANOTHER--
BLAST!



STAIRS, THEN!



BONG



ONLY HOPE!

RUN FAST AS I CAN!

BLEEDIN' NUTTER!

KNOCK ME AGAIN, YOBBO, I'LL DO YOU RIGHT PROPER!

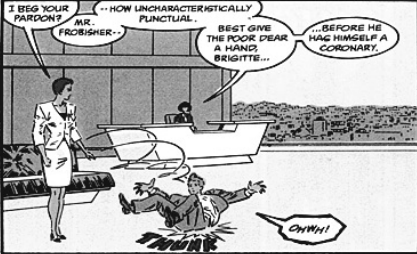
OF ALL THE RUDE--!

I SAY, WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?



BONG





AT ROUGHLY THAT
VERY MOMENT...

...AFTER AN EXTREMELY
QUICK FLIGHT TO
BRITAIN'S WEST COAST...

I DID
THAT?

I GUESS YOU HAD MORE
IMPORTANT THINGS ON
YOUR MIND...

...THAN
USING THE
DOOR.

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

TEACH ME TO REACT
WITHOUT THINKING.

SOMETHING
SURE BETTER.

LETTING
HER POWER
OVERWHELM HER
WAS WHAT GOT THE
ORIGINAL PHOENIX
INTO TROUBLE.

WHY'RE YOU
BEING SO CRABBY,
KITTY? I SAID
I WAS SORRY.

HEY! YOU WEREN'T THE ONE LEFT DRESSED
LIKE SOME STUPID BABY!

IT WAS YOUR
TELEKINETIC
POWER THAT RE-
ARRANGED THE
MOLECULES OF
MY FAVORITE ARAN
CARDIGAN--
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING?!

THE MEMORY'S SO STRONG IN YOUR
THOUGHTS, I COULDN'T HELP
MANIFESTING AN IMAGE OF IT.

SOME BIG
JOKE, RIGHT?!

NO! KITTY,
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT!

CAP COULD
BARELY CONTAIN HIMSELF
WHEN HE SAW ME--
SOME FRIENDS, THEY
ALL THOUGHT IT
WAS SO FUNNY!

HATE TO
SAY IT...

...BUT I
CAN SEE
WHY.

THEY WOULDN'T
BE SO DARN SMUG...

...IF IT
HAPPENED
TO THEM.

NOW
THERE'S
A THOUGHT.

ESPECIALLY
GIGGLE & CAP!
OH, IF ONLY
WE DARED...

I'M
GAME.

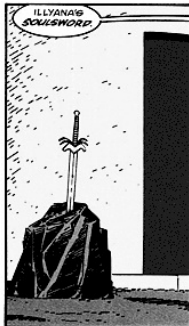
HONESTLY, THOUGH, I
DIDN'T MEAN TO PICK
YOUR BRAIN.

YOU'RE RIGHT,
SOMETIMES MY
CONTROL ISN'T
WHAT IT
SHOULD...

--KITTY,
YOU'RE PALE
AS ICE

LOOK
THERE.

BY THE
FRONT
DOOR.



ILLYANA'S
SOULSWORD.

I THOUGHT IT WAS
PART OF INFERNO.

THE SWORD
BELONGS TO MY
OLD ROOMMATE,
ILLYANA
RASPUTIN.

SHE'S A SORCERESS,
AS WELL AS A MUTANT.
THE SWORD IS THE
PHYSICALIZED ESSENCE
OF HER ARCAINE MIGHT TWICE
BEFORE, WHEN ILLYANA
WAS STRIPPED OF
HER MAGIC...

...THE SWORD
AND ITS POWER
CAME TO ME.

THAT NOTHING THAT
HAPPENED THEN WAS
REAL, THAT EVERYTHING
GOT PUT RIGHT IN
THE END.



GUESS IT'S JUST HAPPENED AGAIN.

WHAT D'YOU PLAN TO
DO ABOUT IT?

I'D LOVE TO GET RID OF IT.

THE MAGIC BROUGHT
ILLYANA NOTHING BUT
GRIEF...



...I WANT NO
PART OF IT.

BUT IF
I TOUCH...



SAY NO
MORE.

YOU'RE
MY
ROOMMATE
NOW--



--AND,
I HOPE, MY
FRIEND--



--AND
FALS...

...LOOK
OUT...



...FOR...
...EACH...
...OTHER!



SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.

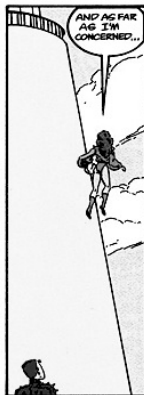
WHUEW!

BY RIGHT, I SHOULD'VE TORN THIS WHOLE ROCK OUT OF THE GROUND.

FORGET IT.

BLASTED THING PROBABLY WON'T BUDGE...

...FOR ANYONE BUT ME.



AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED...



...THERE IT CAN STAY!

FOREVER!



SWORD CAME TO YOU FOR A REASON, KIDDO.

NOT SURE IT'S SENSIBLE TO IGNORE--KITTY?!

NO!



SHE SCREAMED...

...THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS SO WILD...

--FIERCE AND HOT AND OUT OF CONTROL--



--AS THE HEART OF A NEWBORN STAR!

LOCKHEED!



IT WAS THE NAZIS WHO DID THIS, RAY, I KNOW IT--

--MAY THEY ALL OF THEM ROT--

--SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO MY POOR DRAGON!





MEANWHILE,
BACK IN
LONDON...

AS I RECALL THE
TERM OF OUR WAGER,
NIGEL...

...YOU OWE
ME A MILLION
POUNDS.

YOU CAN'T
HOLD ME TO
THAT!

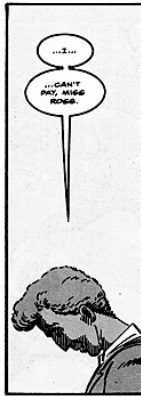


POOR
PET. IT WAS A PUBLIC WAGER, FREELY
TAKEN BEFORE A SCORE OF
WITNESSES.

EVEN ASSUMING
YOU'RE RIGHT, THINK OF
YOUR REPUTATION
SHOULD WORD SPREAD
YOU'VE RENEGED.

YOU'D BE
FINISHED NIGEL,
AS A MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL
BANKER.

I...



...I...

...CAN'T
PAY, MISS
ROSS.



I
HAVEN'T
THE MONEY.

SILLY BOY. THAT'LL
TEACH YOU TO PLAY OUT
OF YOUR LEAGUE.

PERHAPS, THOUGH, WE
CAN COME TO SOME ...

...OTHER ARRANGEMENT.

YOU HAVE TALENTS,
NIGEL. PUT THEM TO MY
USE, AND I'LL GUARANTEE
YOU THE WORLD YOU
DEIRE.



LET YOUR
IMAGINATION
RUN WILD.

THINK OF WEALTH
BEYOND EVEN YOUR
WILDEST DREAMS.

POWER, RESPECTABILITY.
SOCIAL POSITION.

SERVE ME --
WELL -- AND IT'S
YOURS.

I ~~shan't~~ ~~have~~
WHO...

...DO I ~~shan't~~ ~~have~~
HAVE TO ~~shan't~~...

...KILL?

NO RASH PROMISES,
DEAR BOY. THAT'S WHAT
GOT YOU INTO TROUBLE.

I'LL HAVE NO SLOTHS
OR SLUGGARDS, NIGEL.
I WANT YOU FIT.

ANYTHING YOU
SAY, MISS ROSS.



A FEW DAYS LATER...



PROFESSOR
STUART--?

LOVELY
EVENING FOR
A STROLL,
EH?



WAS IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD...

...SAW YOUR
LIGHT...

...THOUGHT I'D NIP
OVER FOR A CUPPA.

RACHEL
SUMMERS.

PHOENIX

MAGNIFICENT!

HAVEN'T COME
AT A BAD TIME,
HAVE I?

ONLY FOR
SOMEONE WHO
HAD TO WALK OVER
FROM THE
MAINLAND.



COME IN, YOU LOON, BEFORE YOU
CATCH YOUR DEATH.

WORSE WAYS
TO GO...

...THAN WHILE
TRYING TO VISIT
YOU.

HMP--SHE'S A
TELEPATH...

...WONDER IF
SHE'S READING MY
THOUGHTS.

WISH I KNEW HERE.



HANG ON
A MO'--

...CAN'T
HAVE YOU DRIPPING
ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

NEAT
TRICK.

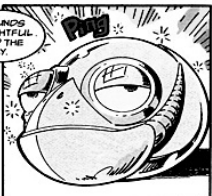
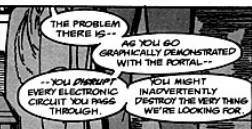
HANDY, BEING A
TELEKINETIC.

MUST BE FUN,
PLAYING WITH MOLECULES
LIKE LEGO BLOCKS.

TICKLES,
TOO.

BY THE BY,
I'M ALAISTAIRE
TO MY CHUNG.





THE TOWER
OF LONDON--

--HEADQUARTERS OF
THE BRITISH GOVERN-
MENT'S WEIRD
HAPPENINGS
ORGANIZATION--

--WHOSE COMMANDER, BRIGADIER ALYRANDE STUART, (ALISTAIR'S TWIN SISTER)
APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A BEAST OF A DAY.

BATH AND
BED, THAT'S THE
TICKET.

SOUNDS LIKE
HEAVEN TO ME,
BRIGADIER.

AND SO MUCH
BETTER IF IT'S
SHARED.

IS THIS ANY WAY
TO WELCOME ONE
WHO'S ABOUT TO
TRANSPORT YOU...

BY ALL
MEANS,
FIGHT.

THE STRONGER THE
STRUGGLE, THE SWEETER
THE SURRENDER.

AND WHEN WE'RE DONE,
YOU'LL BE SO HOPELESSLY
IN LOVE WITH ME ...

...TO UNTOLD
HEIGHTS OF
ECSTASY?

...YOU'LL GLADLY
DO WHATEVER I
ASK.

THAT
BRIMSTONE
STENCH--?!

A GUN,
DEAR LADY?
FOR SHAME!

THAT'LL BE
THE DAY!

ZIM
THEFUL!

--YOU AREN'T THE
BRIGADIER!

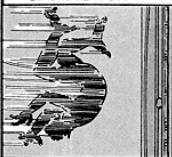
AND YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE OUR
TRUE NIGHTCRAWLER.

HOW
PERCEPTIVE.

HE'S A GENTLEMAN!

UNDERSTANDABLY--GIVEN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES--MORGAN'S
RESPONSE IS A TRIFLE MORE
INTEMPERATE THAN NECESSARY.
SHE THROWS THE NAZI SO HARD,
THE IMPACT IS GLUE TO SMASH
HIM TO A PULP.

HOWEVER, THE SPLIT-SECOND
BEFORE HE HITS...



...HE TELEPORTS...



--UNFORTUNATELY, UPON MATERIALIZATION IN
THE CORRIDOR, OUTSIDE...

SURPRISE!

...HE COLLIDES
WITH A SURFACE...

...ONLY SLIGHTLY
LESS UNYIELDING.



ARROGANT
LITTLE--
COME BACK
HERE!



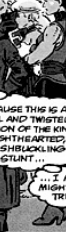
NOT TO WORRY,
MEGGAN.

I HAVE THE
WRETCH.

PITY.

CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHTCRAWLER. YOUR ASSESSMENT OF YOUR DOPPELGÄNGER'S
CHARACTER--AND ANTICIPATION OF HIS ACTIONS--WAS RIGHT ON THE MARK.

I WISH I'D BEEN WRONG, BRIGADIER.



BECAUSE THIS IS A
CRUEL AND TWISTED
VERSION OF THE KIND
OF LIGHTEARTED,
SWASHBUCKLING
STUNT...

...I MYSELF
MIGHT HAVE
TRIED.

IF THIS IS THE KIND OF BEHAVIOR WE CAN EXPECT
FROM YOUR PEOPLE, REICHMINISTER MCKAGGERT,
PERHAPS YOU'D PREFER BEING LOGSED IN A
MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON!

NIGHTCRAWLER ACTED WITHOUT
AUTHORIZATION.

OF COURSE HE DID
HOW CONVENIENT.

IT WAS HIS OWN
WARDPED NOTION OF
AMUSING HIMSELF.

IT WILL
NOT HAPPEN
AGAIN.



IF IT
DOES...

...YOU'LL
BE HELD
RESPONSIB-
LE.



CALLISTO,
I WISH HIM
CHASTISED
SEVERELY.

I KNEW HE'D BE
CAUGHT, THE FOOL.

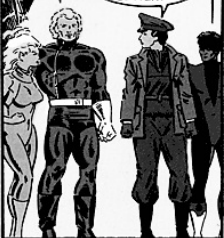
THAT--
SWINE!

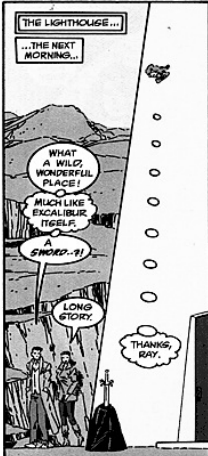
A
PLEASURE
TURNING THE
TABLES ON
THE VILLAINS,
FOR ONCE.

QUESTION IS, CAN THE
NAZIS BE BELIEVED?

NO
MORE THAN
TRUSTED.

QUICKER WE'RE
RID OF THAT LOT,
EXCALIBUR, THE BETTER.





THE LIGHTHOUSE...

...THE NEXT MORNING...

WHAT A WILD, WONDERFUL PLACE!

MUCH LIKE EXCALIBUR ITSELF.

A SWORD...?!

LONG STORY.

THANKS, RAY.



FACE FACTS, KIDDO...

...YOU WANT ATTENTION...

...YOU GOTTA MAKE THE PACKAGE IRRESISTIBLY ATTRACTIVE.

WORKS FOR RAY.

SO WHAT IF I'M MORE COMFORTABLE IN SNEAKS AN' SWEATS?

WHEN IT COMES TO ROMANCE...

...COMFORT DOESN'T CUT IT!



TELL HIM ALL MY SECRETS, WHY DON'T CHAS?

MY WHOLE PITIFUL, PATHETIC LIFE STORY!

BLEAGGH!

NOT THAT HE'LL HEAR A WORD.

WAY HIS EYES POP OUT OF HIS HEAD...

...EVERY TIME HE LOOKS AT YOU.



AMK!

EKK!

EH?

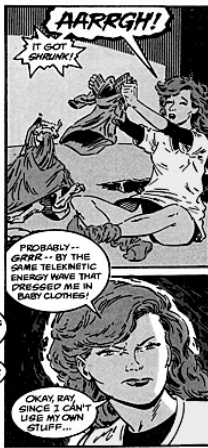
C'MON C'MON, WHERE'S MY "PHOENIX" OUTFIT...

...THE ONE RAY MADE FOR ME...?



I MEAN, WHAT NORMAL, RED-BLOODED GUY IS GONNA GIVE ME EVEN A SECOND GLANCE...

...WITH YOU AROUND?



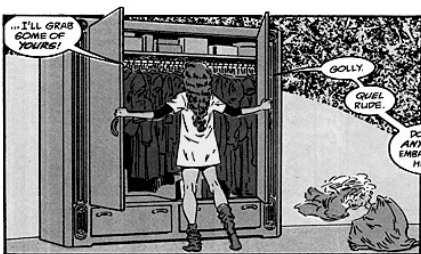
AARRGH!

IT GOT SHRINK!

PROBABLY--

GRRR-- BY THE SAME TELEKINETIC ENERGY WAVE THAT DRESSED ME IN BABY CLOTHES!

OKAY, RAY, SINCE I CAN'T USE MY OWN STUFF...





CONSIDERABLY LATER, STILL DOWNSTAIRS IN KITTY'S BASEMENT LABORATORY...

IT WAS REALLY DRIVING ME BUGGY, GLAD ALISTAIRE WENT BACK TO LONDON. THE WAY I BLUSHED ABSOLUTELY CRIMSON EVERY TIME I SAW HIM.

NOW, ALL I GOT TO DRIVE ME BUGGY, WIDGET, IS YOU.

NO SWITCHES, NO ACCESS PORTS-- WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE A HEAD? CREATOR, BEING SELF-INDULGENT, OR IS THERE SOME REASON?

CRUMBS, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A MANUAL.

ALISTAIRE'LL PROBABLY NEVER FORGIVE ME-- HECK, I WON'T FORGIVE MYSELF--

--IF MY PHASING THROUGH YOUR PORTAL PERMANENTLY TRASHED YOUR SYSTEMS.



SO WHAT IF I DID IT TO GIVE HIS LIFE --



--WHAT DOES HE CARE?!

INFERNAL LITTLE WIDGET--

--WHAT THE HECK MAKES YOU WORKE?!

AWKK!

KITTY! CALL FROM NIGHTCRAWLER, WE'RE NEEDED!

THANKS, RAY. BE RIGHT UP.



I GOT A NERVE, DUMPING ON RAY FOR HER TEMPER.

I WANT TO BE TAKEN FOR A GROWNUP...

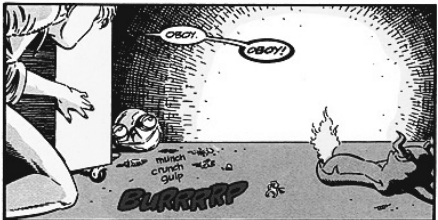
...I BETTER--



--WHUIZZAT?!

ANOTHER WEIRDNESS LIKE UPSTAIRS? AT LEAST, THIS TIME, I'M DRESSED.

YO, LOCKHEED, LIGHT UP THE CORNER, WILL YA?



OOOY!

OOOY!

munch crunch gulp

BURRRRP

LATER STILL, THE NORTH OF ENGLAND...

FORTUNATELY FOR OUR PURPOSES, THIS IS A LONG-ABANDONED GPUR LINE.

AND IT'S REMOTE ENOUGH TO AFFORD COMPLETE PRIVACY.

I CAN'T WAIT!

RESTRAIN YOUR ENTHUSIASM, ALISTAIRE, I'D RATHER HAVE THIS GO SMOOTHLY THAN SPECTACULARLY.

THINGS HAD BETTER HAPPEN SOON, BRIGADIER.

OUR "GUESTS" ARE GETTING RESTLESS.

THERE THEY ARE!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME, Y'KNOW.

I MEAN, CONSIDERING HOW MUCH YOU DISLIKE ...

I DON'T DISLIKE 'EM, RAY, I HATE THEIR NAZI GUTS!

BUT I'M ALSO PART OF EXCALIBUR.

NO MATTER WHAT, I STAND WITH THE TEAM.

WAAOWH!

LOOKHEED, WHAT'RE YOU ... DOING?!

WHAT- THE-DEVIL-WAS- THAT?

REMEMBER, COMMANDER THOMAS, WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS ENGINE'S POWER SOURCE BEING UNIQUE?

WHERE'S THE DEUCED SWITCH THAT TURNS THE HULL TRANSPARENT-- AHA!

THAT DRAGON-- HE'S A GLAVE!

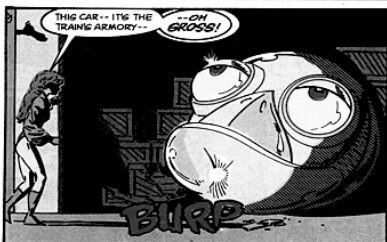
WHAT OF IT?

A BEAST'S PORTION IS BUT TO SERVE.

ROAR

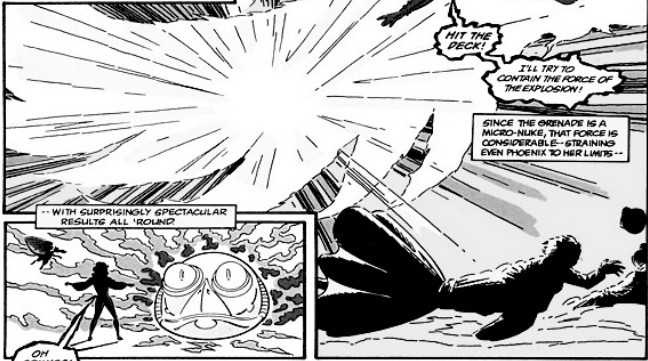








MEANS NOTHING
TO ME!



HIT THE
DECK!

I'LL TRY TO
CONTAIN THE FORCE OF
THE EXPLOSION!

SINCE THE GRENADE IS A
MICRO-NUKE, THAT FORCE IS
CONSIDERABLE--STRAINING
EVEN PHOENIX TO HER LIMITS--

--WITH SURPRISINGLY SPECTACULAR
RESULTS ALL 'ROUND.



OH
CRUMBS!



THE TRAIN-- DID
IT BLOW UP?!

NO SHOCK-WAVE.
NO DEBRIS. MAKES
NO SENSE.

MY LORD--
EXCALIBUR--
THEY WERE
ABOARD!

AIN'T TAKIN' THE KNOCK FOR
THIS 'UN, REG.

TOO
RIGHT!

AND MY
BROTHER
WITH THEM!

--THIS EVENT
HAPPENED
AFTER THE
INITIAL
EVENT--

--AND THE TRAIN
DIDN'T SO MUCH
EXPLODE...

...AS DISAPPEAR.

BUT-- WHERE
THE DEVIL DID THEY
GO?!

IT WASN'T
THE GRENADE,
THOUGH--



NEXT:
WE FIND OUT IN--
MY FRIENDS
CALL ME "BILLY
THE KID!"

SWORD STOKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MICHAEL ROCKWITZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Swordsmiths

A couple of months back, I wrote in commenting on the uncertainty I felt about how EXCALIBUR would work out in balancing a light-hearted touch (rare in Marvel mutant books these days) and a followable plotline. It appears my fears were mostly groundless.

The cover on #4 was one of the most refreshing I've seen in any annuum of comics reading. It was even better than the one gracing #3, featuring Juggly literally walking right over poor Captain Britain. As with any form of humor, it should not be done just for the sake of being different. If good ideas such as these come along, then, by all means use them. But don't force it, you're doing fine so far.

The stories have an edge of unreality which goes just a bit beyond that of most comic plotlines—without overdoing it.

The "stars" of the strip are being well-handled, staying generally more in character than in many other books. The ongoing saga of Brian Courtney/Meggan Kurt shows much promise. I would like to see it go on for quite some time, but I would also like to see it resolved eventually, with Courtney landing Brian, who is definitely more her style, and Kurt building a rewarding relationship with Meggan, who echoes his own happy-go-lucky philosophy in a way no one else ever has. Yeah, definitely get that sorted out A.S.A.P., please?

Speaking of ongoing... that tin-plated, frog-head stargate should either be nuked or otherwise creatively vaporized, or it should become part of the team (save on transit fares). Right now, it threatens to become like that never-to-be-sufficiently-cursed Elf who kept popping up in the DEFENDERS strip and then was forgotten about for the longest time. He was finally revived in one of the most amazingly pointless finales ever scripted, hopefully a path this little guy won't follow.

Finally, I agree with Rachel, that look is "definitely 'or what'." And, yes, Kitty looked great! But, Rachel's tried it Brian's way, now she can go back to "normal." After all, Carol Danvers put it best in a recent X-MEN—being noticed is okay; the trick is making sure they don't remember your face. And most of Rachel's outfits make this a virtual certainty.

Yours in the interest of (saritorial) quality control,

"The Star Wolf"
P.O. Box 2958
Stn. D, Ottawa
ON, Canada

Thanks for the compliments, Wolff. There will be some startling developments in the relationships of our characters, so keep your eyes peeled. And as for Widget, plenty will be happening with him and the rest of our intrepid group!

Sword Stokes.

Another hurrah for EXCALIBUR! In four issues this magazine has become a real favorite, helped along by the kind of enthusiasm that the mutant books used to

have before there were so many of them. By narrowing its focus, EXCALIBUR has found that stride of interaction that has become an X-MEN trademark.

Okay, onto the finer points: Courtney Ross is another example of those "Strong Claremont Women" that seem to populate the books that Chris writes. That is just fine, because for the first time in any of Chris's characterizations, a female is trying to come to terms with her strong personality in the story context. The opening scene in "Still Crazy After All These Years" sets Courtney apart from Colleen, Misty, Ororo, Stevie Hunter (remember her, anybody?), and all the rest. A nice turn of a stock figure, Chris. We knew you could do it. The Crazy Gang is, well, crazy.

That promised "lighter side" of this book is certainly evident—but not at the loss of spirit and adventure. I didn't think that any X-related series could easily forego the underscore of human drama and relationships, so I was glad that this was already getting a tad bit confused with the Kurt/Meggan/Brian/Courtney couplings. But, doesn't Kurt have a steady flame back in the States... or does she think he is dead, injured, or otherwise disposed?

The friendship between Kitty and Rachel is terribly important to both women. This is Kitty's first "grown-up" female friend (Illyana aside, they were both kids and Storm was never much more than a mother figure), while Rachel is finding a deeper trust in someone than she has ever known before. Imagine how hard it must be for Rachel—considering her past future (?) to have fun.

Nice to see Arcade, even if some fans seem to think of him as some minor league version of the Joker. I think the differences are quite apparent, even if the mold used for both the villains are not. Arcade is much a child, and his rambling stream of consciousness dialogue proves that fact.

The tip of the hat to "Inferno" was set up nicely, and I hope that after this crossover is finished, we have a resolution to who will bear the name Phoenix, who is mother to whom, and what power does the infant Nathan hold to actually affect Rachel this way?

Loved the Bette Midler crack, guys.

Thomas Long
3644a Arsenal
St. Louis, MO 63116

Well, Tom, by now you must know the fate of poor Courtney, but the others in our favorite group will still be going through plenty of twists and turns in their personal relationships. As for Arcade and his similarity to our competition's clown criminal, we never noticed any similarity between the two, except maybe their tailor!

And we hope that inferno answered most, if not all, of your questions!

Dear Swordsmen,

The first five issues of EXCALIBUR have been fantastic! EXCALIBUR is to a point now where it even surpasses the X-MEN. Even though the book is magnificent, there

are still a few things that bug me. First of all, I got lost somewhere when Nightcrawler teleported and it left him as weak as a baby in issue #1 (page 18). Also, in issue #4, he teleported and Meggan said it wasn't easy for him now. Why? What happened to him? Since he doesn't teleport often, has he come to rely on his physical capabilities? Now that he is the "head" of Excalibur, he needs the talent that makes him special. Why don't you see what you can do.

While we're talking about Nightcrawler, let's talk about his clothes. He's had the same costume for years! Maybe a change is in order.

The rest of the characters are perfect. But I see Nightcrawler and Meggan might be getting closer in the future. If they do, please have Brian get back together with Courtney so we don't have big, jealous boyfriends breaking up the team.

Just a few ideas from a concerned reader. Keep up the great work!

Tim Loatman
208 W. Junius Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Let's answer your Nightcrawler questions first, Tim. Due to the injuries he sustained in the FALL OF THE MUTANTS storyline last year, Kurt's teleportation abilities have been extremely hampered, but he compensates with his other skills and abilities and natural charm. Also, he is not the leader of Excalibur; Brian is. As for a new costume, how do you like the Nazi-Nightcrawler's look? It's not our Nightcrawler, but he's close enough.

And as for the Brian and Courtney relationship... well, we don't know about you, but we think it's kind of hard to have a serious relationship with a pile of ashes (EXCALIBUR #5, page 30), and Brian probably feels the same way, too!

NEXT ISSUE:



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Big news, gang! Remember NBC-TV's recent Hulk show which guest-starred Mighty Thor? Well, it was such a big hit that they're planning to do a lot more of them; and get this, each new Hulk special will co-star a different mighty Marvel super hero!

I wanted to make a contest out of it, wanted to ask you to guess who our next TV star would be, but this news is too exciting to hold back. The next Hulk special will co-star — are you ready for this? — none other than Daredevil, everyone's favorite man without fear!

And here's something even more exciting! If the show is as big a smash as we expect it to be, the network'll spin off Hornhead out into his own series.

Marvel Comics coverage continued! So let's all lift our heads, face front, and shout "I want my MTV!" just as loudly as "Make Me Marvel!"

ITEM: If you needed even more evidence that mighty Marvel was taking over the world, allow us to fill you in on our latest venture in the ever-thriving computer games field. Marvel is teaming up with Paragon Software to produce the first in a series of fast-paced, interactive comic/arcade adventures called "Spider-Man and Captain America in Dr. Doom's Revenge." The best part is that there's an

actual Marvel comic packed in with each game! This collector's item issue is scripted by Dapper Danny Fingeroth and penciled by Rip-roarin' Rich Buckner and sports a totally excellent cover by John Romita Jr.'s pop! The version for IBM PC and compatibles ships in March, while the Commodore 64 version is scheduled for a June release. Don't say we didn't warn you!

ITEM: Congratulations to Al and Judy Milgrom on the birth of their third child, Benjamin. Hmmm ... Ben MILGROM ... Ben GRIMM ... Nahhh!

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Albert Brooks, or was that Avery Brooks?

The reason I got into comics was: So I could hit Wolverine in the face with a pie.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: Probably just joking.

My favorite performers are: Miles Davis, Richard Pryor, Robin Williams, Billie Holiday, Oscar Peterson, Ornette Coleman, Katherine Hepburn, Peter O'Toole, George Clinton, the Brothers Brothers, Return to Forever and the Firestone Theater.

The last good book I read was: *Satan: His Psychotherapy and Cure by the Unfortunate Dr. Kessler, J.S.P.S.* by Jeremy Levin. I'm in the middle of *To O'Neil's Man of the House and its good, too.*

The last good movie I saw was: *Another Woman* ... Well, I liked it.

The biggest influences on my work include: Ralph Ellison, Rocky Chavkin, Woody Allen, Fran Lebowitz, Toni Morrison, Robert Altman, Preston Sturges, Harold Ramis and the Lee Brothers, Stan and Spike.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comic field is: To write *THE FANTASY FOUR*.

The worst part of my job is: Telling people what I do for a living and listening to them tell me, "Really?!" I just love Superman."

When nobody's looking I like to: That's none of your business. Besides, all us kids do it. It didn't stunt my growth, either.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That deep down, I'm every bit as terrifying as I look.



MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

ITEM: We've always said that comics weren't just for kids, and it looks like the rest of the world is finally catching on! The latest convert to the Marvel message is none other than MTV, the super-popular all-music cable station. Already they've run reports regarding *DAMAGE CONTROL*, Tama Janowitz's cameo appearance in *SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN* #144, and Epic's *AKIRA* and *STRAY CATS*. We're really excited about this and feel we should do everything we can to encourage such good works. You might want to either write or call the swell folks at MTV and tell 'em to keep the

Pro file: DWAYNE McDUFFIE

Assistant Editor on: Special projects like the Marvel press posters, movie and TV adaptations, including *INDIANA JONES* and *THE LAST CRUSADE*, *WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT?*, the X-Men cartoon graphic novel, the Punisher movie, *A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET*. Custom comics, toy tie-ins and anything that isn't a regular monthly comic.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Writer on the *DAMAGE CONTROL* Limited Series; the *DEATH-LOK* Bookshelf Limited Series; a *CAPTAIN MARVEL* serial for *SOLO AVENGERS*; a *SHE-HULK* Graphic Novel; a *GIANT MAN* serial for *Marvel Comics Presents*; and the upcoming *MORTON DOWNEY JR.* black-and-white comic (you think I'm kidding, don't you?).

My hobbies are: Physics, reading, scowling, pushing my luck, spiraling into depression, getting and losing unusual jobs, sneaking past the "Guardian Angels" who won't let me into my apartment building (and what's the deal with those hats they wear? Are they supposed to be members of the Raccoon Lodge, or what?), watching movies, whining. The single work which I am most proud of is: All things considered, pretty disappointing.

My pet peeves are: Dead.
My place of birth is: Detroit, Michigan.
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Really quite impressive. Remind me to tell you about it sometime.

My oddest habit is: Approved by the Comics Code Authority.

CHECKLIST

MARVELOUS MAGS ON SALE RIGHT NOW!

- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #356
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #269
- ☐ SEMPER PAR #59
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #47
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #24
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #53
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #25
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #11
- ☐ SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #5
- ☐ G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS #11
- ☐ THE NEW MAN #11 — John Doe is the incredible N.T. MAN — the ultimate warrior! And only he can stop World War III! Written by LARRY HAMA, penciled by RON WAGNER, inked by FRED FREDERICKS.
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #21
- ☐ ALF #18
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #318 — Wait till you see the all new SCORPION! Written by DAVID MICHELINIE and illustrated by TODD McFARLANE.
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #54
- ☐ HEATHCLIFF #36
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #78
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #73

- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE Limited Series #2 — From CHANCE to EXCALIBUR, the history, powers and all-new illustrations of your favorite heroes and villains!
- ☐ ST. GEORGE #7
- ☐ WOLVERINE #10
- ☐ SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #2 — The first chapter in the "Atlantis Attacks" saga!
- ☐ THE WAR LIMITED Series #3
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #77 — Special preview of the new NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. series, plus more information on all the titles listed here!
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #358
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #226
- ☐ AVENGERS #306 — Cover-to-cover action as CAPTAIN AMERICA, THOR, SHE-HULK, QUASAR, BLACK PANTHER, GILGAMESH, SUB-MARINER, and the WEST COAST AVENGERS battle for their lives against an army of LAVA MEN! Written by JOHN BYRNE, penciled by PAUL RYAN, inked by TOM PALMER.
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #221
- ☐ DAMAGE CONTROL (Limited Series) #4 — In

the final issue of the Limited Series, *DAMAGE CONTROL* tries to repair Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. But things get a bit, well, sticky! Written by DWAYNE McDUFFIE, penciled by ERNIE COLON, inked by BOB FALK.

- ☐ G.I. JOE #89
- ☐ PUNISHER #22
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #26
- ☐ UNCANNY X-MEN #247 — An X-Man dies as he tries to stop KIMMO! Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT, penciled by MARK SILVESTRI, inked by DAN GREEN.
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #26

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #162
- ☐ MARVEL BOOKSHELF
- ☐ NICK FURY vs. S.H.I.E.L.D. Trade Paperback — The acclaimed Limited Series collected into one stunning volume! NICK FURY is marked for murder by S.H.I.E.L.D.! Written by BOB HARRAS, penciled by PAUL NEARY, inked by KIM DEMULDER, new cover by BOB LARKIN.

